Petrochemical complex at Paradeep

2899. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to set up a petrochemical complex at Paradeep; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the project and the estimated cost thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inadequate communication services in Orissa

2900. SHRI KHANU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are aware of the inadequate communication services in the remote, interior and tribal areas of Orissa;

(b) whether Government have conducted any survey to provide communication facilities to these areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the survey and what is the number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges proposed to be opened in those areas, and by when they are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The policy of the Department is to provide telecom. facility on fully subsidised basis within about 5 Kms. of every inhabited place in the country progressively. For this purpose country has been divided into hexagons of 5 Kms. each and a principal village preferably a Panchayat Headquarter in it is earmarked for providing the facility. The survey has revealed that there are a total of 932 such hexagons in the tribal area of Orissa out of which 393 has been provided with telecom. facility. The remaining hexagons will be provided with Telecom. facility progressively during the balance period of Seventh Plan add Eighth Five Year Plan. Telephone Exchanges are opened, based of demand. For a minimum registered demand 5, 10, 23 and 46 an exchange with a capacity of 9, 25, 50 and 100 lines respectively can be opened subject to the availability of equipment. During the current year so far 44 new post offices have been sanctioned in the backward/tribal areas of the State. These Post Offices are likely to start functioning during March/April, 1989.

Survey to locate coal deposits in Orissa

2901. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Geology and Mining has surveyed more areas in Orissa to locate coal deposits,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken to extract coal from these areas;

(d) the measures being taken to increase the coal production from the existing coalfields; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to form a coal raising company in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India and the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Orissa Government have conducted explorations to locate coal deposists in Orissa. These surveys have indicated coal bearing blocks in Talabira, Gopalprasad, Neelachal, Lingaraj, Bharatpur South, Gopalpur blocks etc.

The total coal reserve in Orissa State as on 1-1-89 are estimated at 41556.64 million tonnes.